

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David Hill (Reg. No. 28,220) on July 21, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claim 11-20.

ALLOWANCE

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1-9** are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 4 and 7 define an image forming device/method for printing image data stored in electronic tag, wherein said electronic tag is equipped within an electronically tagged printing paper and said tag further stores attribute information as depicted in figures 3 and 4. The claimed device/method comprises a displaying unit/step for displaying modifiable items among the attribute information and an attributes information modifying unit/step for modifying the attribute information displayed by said display unit/step. The claims distinguish over the prior art in that a writing unit/step writes the attribute information and the image data on the electronic tag of the another/new electronically tagged printing paper on which the modified image data modified according to the modified attribute information is printed. The claimed combination provides a device/method for storing the original image data and its attribute information on the electronic tag of the new printing paper even if the image data printed on the new printing paper is modified.

The most relevant prior art Teraura (U.S. Patent No. 6,827,279) teaches a method of scanning a printing paper having an RFID tag for storing the copy-prohibiting field (fig. 11). Teraura further teaches the method of reading an image on the paper together with the information in the RFID tag (col. 7, lines 60-66). However, Teraura does not teach the writing unit/step for writing the attribute information and the image

data on the electronic tag of the another/new electronically tagged printing paper on which the modified image data modified according to the modified attribute information is printed.

Many prior art references teaches the concept of reading the image data from an electronic tag mounted on a printing paper. For example, Ostrover et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,585,154) and Tanaka et al. (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000/0285203) teach the concept of storing image data in an electronic tag mounted on a printing paper and reading the image data from the tag for printing. However, both references do not teach the claimed combination of displaying, modifying and writing units/steps.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571)272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHAN S PARK/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Edward L. Coles/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

July 21, 2008